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REMARKS

In response to the restriction/election requirement (See Office Action dated December 2, 2003), applicant's representative elects with traverse Species V, and notes that claims 1, 3-8, 11, 13, 16 and 21-33 read on this species. Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 13, 16 and 21-33 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 3, 4, 16 have been amended. Claims 2, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17-20, 22, 26 and 34-40 have been withdrawn herein. It is respectfully submitted that this subset of claims is believed to be generic to the respective species noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, upon allowance of these elected claims, applicant's representative intends to rejoin outstanding non-elected claims. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP

Himanshu S. Amin

Reg. No. 40,894

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP 24TH Floor, National City Center 1900 E. 9TH Street Cleveland, Ohio 44114 Telephone (216) 696-8730 Facsimile (216) 696-8731